

PerksCard

Don't forget to check out <http://perkscard.com/> for up and coming specials, offers and promotions.

As a PerksCard member you can now purchase gift cards for The Home Depot® for all your home improvement needs!

You can purchase gift cards for The Home Depot® in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100.

- Minimum Purchase 2 Per Order
- Maximum Purchase 12 Per Order.

If you would like to purchase gift cards for The Home Depot® through this new PerksCard Offer, go to PerksCard.com, log into your PerksCard account and visit The Home Depot® page.

How South Carolina is preparing for Disasters

Avian Influenza

You may have heard or read about a potential bird flu pandemic in the United States. South Carolina has been recognized as one in seven states to have a comprehensive plan to ensure we are prepared in the event of a flu pandemic. You can find out more about the state's plan by visiting the following website at www.dhec.sc.gov/administration/ophp/pandemic_preparedness.htm.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guide for Individuals and Families has information that all employees are strongly encouraged to follow. Some highlights of the guide, available at www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab3.html, include:

- Stock a supply of water and food. Store foods that are nonperishable, easy to prepare, and require little water.
- Have extra prescription drugs as well as nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand.
- Stay at home if you are sick.

- Create a family emergency health plan that contains important information about family members' past and current medical conditions, allergies, and blood types.
- Develop an emergency contact list with the names/phone numbers of emergency contacts, health care providers, schools, etc. Discuss where to meet if your family is separated.

For more information Online:

- www.avianinfluenza.info.com/
- www.cdc.gov/flu/avian
- www.pandemicflu.gov

E-Recruitment

The Office of Human Resources has recently begun the first phase of establishing an E-Recruitment system that will streamline state government's job recruitment and application processes. Stay tuned for additional information.

Blue Granite Recognition

In April 2003, South Carolina Senator Phil Leventis announced the Blue Granite Recognition, a new platform to showcase extraordinary performance by South Carolina state employees. If you know someone or a group of individuals who should be nominated, and want to find out more about this recognition, visit the Blue Granite Recognition website at www.bluegraniterecognition.org/about.htm.



This newsletter is compiled by the State Office of Human Resources and is intended to serve as a resource to State employees.

Remaining 2006 Holiday Schedule

Labor Day	Monday, September 4 (First Monday in September)
Veterans Day	Friday, November 10 (Observed)
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23 (Fourth Thursday in November)
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
Day After Christmas	Tuesday, December 26

Electronic Version of the State Appeal Form

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) completed its pilot study for the electronic submission of the State Appeal Form. As a result, covered employees wanting to appeal adverse employment actions, as defined by the State Employee Grievance Procedure Act, may complete and send the State Appeal Form online.

Covered employees choosing to send the appeal form electronically can access the State Appeal Form at the OHR web site. The web address is: www.ohr.sc.gov/OHR/employee/OHR-state-grievance.phtml. Covered employees without internet access may continue to initiate an appeal by U.S. Mail or facsimile and OHR will mail the State Appeal Form to the covered employee.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the electronic version of the State Appeal Form, please call OHR at (803) 737-0900.

Employee Training Opportunities

If you are interested in exploring training opportunities available to all state employees visit the Office of Human Resources website address <http://www.ohr.sc.gov/OHR/OHR-employee.phtml> and scroll to the Training and Development section.